

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 043513 TOSEC 040238

TO THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN THROUGH SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, UR, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - INVITATION TO MRS. FORD

TO CO-SPONSOR FIRST PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF SOVIET-

AMERICAN FEATURE FILM (S/S NO. 7603739)

1. THE PROBLEM

THE NSC HAS ASKED FOR OUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON AN INVITATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX TO MRS. FORD TO CO-SPONSOR WITH MRS. DOBRYNIN THE FIRST PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE FILM "THE BLUEBIRD", A SOVIET-AMERICAN CO-PRODUCTION, TO BE HELD MAY 4 AT THE KENNEDY CENTER.

2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

"THE BLUEBIRD" IS THE FIRST CO-PRODUCTION OF A FEATURE-

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LENGTH COMMERCIAL FILM BY A US PRODUCER AND THE SOVIET

UNION. IT WAS DIRECTED BY GEORGE CUKOR, AND STARS ELIZABETH TAYLOR, JANE FONDA, AVA GARDNER, AND CICELY TYSON, SOME OF WHOM MAY BE PRESENT AT THE KENNEDY CENTER PRESENTATION.

3. IN VIEW OF THE UNCOMPROMISING SOVIET LINE ON ANGOLA, WE ARE, ON YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, POSTPONING OR DELAYING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WITH THE SOVIETS WHICH WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VISIBLE BECAUSE THE LEVEL OF US PARTICIPATION IS HIGH, OR WE ARE REDUCING THE LEVEL OF US PARTICIPATION. MRS. FORD'S CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE PRESENTATION WOULD CERTAINLY ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND WOULD THUS BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR CURRENT NEGATIVE APPROACH TO HIGH-VISIBILITY BILATERAL ACTIVITIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. ANOTHER NEGATIVE CONSIDERATION IS THAT THIS IS A PURELY COMMERCIAL VENTURE WHICH DOES NOT INVOLVE THE US GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER SOVIET-AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO-PRODUCTIONS ARE PLANNED. THEREFORE, HER CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE FILM WOULD SET A PRECEDENT WHICH OTHER PRODUCERS MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TENOR OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE COULD CHANGE BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 4, PARTICULARLY IF WE SUCCEED IN NEGOTIATING A SALT AGREEMENT. FOR THIS REASON, IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OPEN FOR THE PRESENT.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT WE RECOMMEND A RESPONSE TO TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX WHICH, WHILE MAKING ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO COMMITMENT, LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT MRS. FORD'S SCHEDULE MIGHT PERMIT HER TO CO-SPONSOR.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

ALTERNATIVELY, THAT WE RECOMMEND THAT MRS. FORD ACCEPT THE
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INVITATION.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

ALTERNATIVELY, THAT WE RECOMMEND THAT MRS. FORD DECLINE
THE INVITATION.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

7.DRAFTED EUR/SOV -WKUSHLIS; APPROVED: EUR - AHARTMAN.
CLEARANCES:EUR/SOV - MGARRISON; EUR -JAARMITAGE; C-
WSHINN; CU-YRICHMOND; S/S-O - LRMACFARLANE. INGERSOLL

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